

Date: August 1, 1979

Occupation: Housewife

INTERVIEWER: When did you first here about the Three Mile Island incident?

NARRATOR: I first heard about it Wednesday night, that was March 28, late at night it was around eleven o'clock. We were watching television and it was time for the news to come on. And my husband asked me if we had heard. My friend from New York was visiting me at the time, my girlfriend was here with her baby, she has an 18 month old baby, we had spent the day doing a lot of things and we weren't paying attention to the news and no one mentioned it at dinner and that night when he mentioned it, we were really shocked to here that there was a problem with a valve. That's all that came out, it wasn't anything really serious, it was just a valve.

INT: Were you very worried about it at that time?

NAR: Uhm, yeah- I was kind of shaken up for a few minutes then I watched the news. I don't remember having a whole lot reaction, I kept thinking, I wonder if that's the real story or if that's all that really happened. I wonder if we should start thinking about things to do in case it is serious and if we need to think about leaving the area. But my friend was visiting at the time there were a lot of things going on. We were a little worried for a while. Then the next day her husband called from work in New York to ask if she had heard about it, he works in New Jersey but they live in New York. He was real concerned because he had heard on the news, that it was more than just a valve problem and so then we started getting a little bit worried. It was Friday morning the news of the release of radioactivity on Friday morning that really shook us up. I don't know if we are getting ahead of ourselves here or not.

INT: No you're doing fine.

NAR: Well, Thursday I remember, we went out to a farm near here, south of here and we went through the barn, showing the children the cows. Her son had never been in the country before- they are from New York. I can remember seeing the cows grazing and thinking I wonder if there's radioactivity in this grass and if we should start paying attention to the milk. Checking around to see if any milk had been tested recently. Thoughts like that started to cross my mind. Friday morning my husband called from work early in the morning like around 9:30 and asked if we had been listening to the radio and we hadn't. And he said, well I don't want you to get panicky, but I think you should start listening to the reports. So I started listening and got real, real scared and I remember that whole day was real spooky and eerie we wouldn't let the children go outside an then we kept saying well this is ridiculous if there's any radioactivity in the air it's not going to make a difference if we open a door or not, there's no way we can seal off the house.

INT: This was still on Friday?

NAR: This was Friday morning. I called all my friends who were pregnant at the time, almost all my friends in this area, and learned that they were all leaving; they were all packing things up. One friend called me and said, what kinds of things should I be packing, should I be taking insurance policies, bank books and documents, will this stuff be contaminated? I just remember thinking if we do this we better be sure to take pictures, I don't want to leave any pictures behind.

INT: That's come out a couple times. People saying that what mattered the most were the pictures.

NAR: The whole day, it was just so eerie. My friend Betsy and I, she had been planning to go back to New York on Saturday on the train, but she didn't want to go to Harrisburg because that would just be going closer to the plant. We were trying to figure out how we were going to get her home. Her father called from New York, we had several calls from New York that day, people were really concerned about Betsy and about us and what were doing. And we thought well this is really strange, they're getting all these sensational type reports from the press in New York and we're just getting sort of these low-keyed bulletins like there is nothing to worry about. They are thinking about thinking about evacuating people but it's not, there's no cause for alarm. I can remember sitting down and trying to make up lists of things to take and where we would go and thinking, if we go somewhere which should we take and what kinds of things would get ruined.

INT: What sort of things did you decide to take?

NAR: Well, we had no idea, there were two different things we had to think about- long range plans- are we going to be gone for good- are all our possessions going to be contaminated, or are we going to go away from the weekend? So, I started making little lists, one list would be diapers and food and clothes and things like that. Another list would be photographs and furniture that I might want to save my sewing machine and iron- things like that...

INT: More the long range things?

NAR: Yeah, but the whole atmosphere of the house was really eerie, my friend and I were getting really irritated with each other, the kids wouldn't take naps, people weren't cooperating. We kept getting calls from my friends; they were leaving, one by one sifting themselves out of the community. So it was just a real strange, eerie kind of feeling that whole day and Steve came home at lunchtime and said I think we better really seriously figure out where we're going to go and what we're going to do and we should start getting out the suitcases and packing things up. So we did that, we got suitcases out and we got a box together and threw some food in a box. I called my parents, my father works at the War College, he was real reassuring, he kept saying there's nothing to worry about and we haven't heard anything here that indicates that

there's a real danger. We're going to go to Shenandoah this weekend maybe you'd like to come down there.

INT: Did they have that pre-planned?

NAR: I can't remember. I think they did, I think that they had planned to go down there any way that weekend. My mother, I told my mother that I would probably like to stay at least a week or so, I didn't feel confident that the reports we were getting from the press were accurate.

INT: How did you feel about the media?

NAR: I guess I felt, I felt that the media was doing its job, that people were not concerned enough. I felt that you couldn't over-react in a situation like this, that you couldn't be too careful. I got the feeling from a lot of people that I was over-reacting for leaving for a week. That there was no danger, but I kind of felt like, people just weren't concerned enough. Most of the people who I know, who are pregnant and young and been through that whole 60's trip, through that whole consciousness kinda thing, it turned into another cause in a way, it sort of revived that old feeling that we can't trust agencies and we can't trust the government and all that. So it was easy to follow through- that kind of feeling. I feel like that feeling is justified, I still feel that way. I feel that nuclear power is a real dangerous thing, no matter how important it is and no matter how much we need it. I think we just can't depend on it at all, it's not safe, it's not worth the risk, you can't over-react to the consequences of something like that. If there were another accident. I still don't feel safe, I don't feel like, we're just finding out now that more radioactive water has been dumped into the river. It's not a chocking thing to find out, it's just well and look what else they're doing. I feel like I'm getting off on a tangent. I feel real, the media, the papers in New York and the Washington Post and the Washington Star it was real big press when we were down in Virginia. I listened to the radio, we had one line of electricity coming through the house which was a real treat because we were living in this real rural situation, much more primitive life-style, for that week that we went down there. We had to carry our water in from the spring; we had wood burning stoves, that was real nice, that was real reassuring we could be a little more self-sufficient in the midst of all this crazy technological problems that were going on. Listening on the radio, I remember hearing reports from, I think it was somewhere in Virginia, Winchester, VA, no it would have been further north, Fredericksburg is that in Virginia?

INT: Yeah.

NAR: The mayor of some town was saying that they had tested the air, they had tested the water and there was no...

INT: In Virginia they were testing it?

NAR: Yeah, they were watching the wind factor, they were saying something about, that there was no cause for the people of the town to be alarmed or to be worried because they hadn't, they didn't have any indication that any of the radioactivity was coming in that direction.

INT: So were people there concerned?

NAR: People up there were concerned and people up there were really sympathetic to us when we were going to the laundromat to do wash and stuff. They were very much aware of the problem. We left Friday night, on Saturday we took Betsy to D.C. First, we down to Shenandoah to Luray which is in the Shenandoah Valley where the house is and stayed there that night. Saturday, Steve and I, my husband, Steve, and Betsy and her baby went into Washington and we put them on a plane at National Airport to send them back to New York, because she didn't want to leave from Harrisburg. Then we went to the Smithsonian and I remember it was a real hot day and we were outside and there were a lot of people around and we ran into some fellow, and he was sitting on a park bench and he been visiting from Germany, and he was telling us all about his reaction to the situation and he was really interested in our reaction, he'd only been in the country for two days and we had this real long conversation about...

INT: How did he feel, what was his reaction?

NAR: He felt that we were over-reacting. He felt that, look at all the technological advances we've made in this country, all the opportunities that you have here, this is a great place to be and you're lucky that you can have all these, have access to all these great things, with the help of nuclear power.

INT: About how old was he?

NAR: About my age, late 20s, he had just had a new baby. Also, my very first reaction to this whole thing was thank heavens I'm not pregnant. Because my friends were pregnant, I just, that was our big concern that the little kids and the pregnant women were going to be affected if there was any radioactivity.

INT: How do you think they might be affected?

NAR: Fetuses might be deformed, probably if there is any problem they would abort. Most of my friends were just passed three months, just a little over three months pregnant. I didn't know, I just didn't know. I was just real worried that it would affect the fetuses, somehow or other. It's a weird thing, I feel like I should do some research, I should check it out, but now that I've learn that I'm pregnant, I'm real hesitant to do it. I haven't really discussed it with my doctor. I think I don't want to give him the opportunity to say that I'm over-reacting. But I worry about it; I really do because at the time of the accident I would have been about three weeks pregnant. Right in the beginning, a lot of times, I think well if there was anything wrong I would have lost the baby because usually before three months you automatically abort it, a defective baby or

whatever you call it. Still it's something I worry about. We've been buying our milk from High's market because it comes from Frederick, Maryland. We still feel a little bit...I don't feel that we can protect ourselves if there's still radioactive elements leaking into the air. I guess it's just a token thing, I don't feel that we can protect ourselves by even leaving and going anywhere else. I just feel like the only way that people can be assured that there's no more risk is to just completely change their lifestyles and I think that can't happen.

INT: Are you afraid to eat any food from the area?

NAR: Not really, we haven't been buying milk that comes from the Harrisburg area or Lancaster area. I haven't been real consciencous about checking out where the produce comes from that I use. Not because I think it's not necessary just because I feel that that's too much stress, that I can't live that way anymore. The whole week that we were in Virginia was just real disorienting for all of us. In a way, it was real satisfying because I felt that we were taking steps to change our life-style, down there. We were living in a completely different way. Carrying our water in and chopping wood. You know reality sets in and you have to come home- we couldn't stay down there forever. Steve only stayed for a few days and left us down there. I kept worrying about him up here and my friends up here. People were starting to come back. We have a tenant who lived in the back apartment at the time and I talked to Lynn and she said that some people at Dickinson, the physics department were monitoring the soil and the air.

INT: There is one professor that lives just about a couple miles from it. Oh a physics Prof? I meant Carlisle and they have been checking there and here too.

NAR: Are they still doing it?

INT: Not anymore, they had been doing it.

NAR: So I felt reasonably safe about coming back and not being exposed to anything knowing that they were doing it.

INT: Why don't' you just skim through that and see if there is anything we haven't covered?

NAR: I was trying to think of dreams, I can't remember any dream. When you are pregnant, you dream all kinds of strange things but I don't know if anything was related to TMI. I can't remember, or fantasies that I had.

INT: did you have nay images of what would happen if the worst were to happen to the plant, did you have any images of what that might be?

NAR: I had an image of the whole valley being completely devastated and people just falling over. There would be no place to go to escape it. At first I was thinking, well what would you do in case of a nuclear invasion. Would you go down into the basement

and try to close everything up and hope for the best? The whole thing seemed so futile to me that I just couldn't think about it. You couldn't eat, you couldn't drink, you couldn't... There was just nothing you could do. I guess it is just a matter of not dwelling on it because the whole thing is too futile. I suppose it's got to account to account for a great deal of stress, but this is a hard time right now. Economically it is a hard time, there's a lot of stress because of that. Also, we're now, Steve and I were real surprised to find out I'm pregnant because we weren't expecting this baby. And this is, we weren't planning on this baby at all and it came at a real bad time so there is a lot of stress there. It is just real hard to figure out how much of it can be attributed to Three Mile Island. But I do think that, that since the accident I have felt a lot more pessimistic about the future of this planet. Sometimes I feel like, well there is no way you can change the whole structure of people, of the way people live. You can't just say look, you have to wake up and realize that you can't waste any more energy. You can't just drive your car to work everyday. People feel they deserve to be able to live this way. That they have worked hard to be able to live this way and. It's just real hard. I don't know if it will ever change or what it is going to take. This didn't change it. This accident at Three Mile Island hasn't really made a strong impact, I don't think. I don't know what's going to happen.

INT: Would you like to see them get rid of all nuclear power plants or?

NAR: I would. I would like to see nuclear power completely stopped and. I, I can't conceive of how, what can be done with the waste or what with the plutonium that has already been mined. I just. Nuclear weapons it's the same situation. I feel there that it's just futile. It is ridiculous to talk about, you know. We need so many weapons and they need so many weapons just to hold over their heads or to hold over our heads. It just the whole idea of it is just so. It is almost infantile to me. So, but it has been going on for years and years and this is how man has evolved, a wasteful kind of creature. That's how I feel. We have just created these, man is just turning into this kind of futile monster. I feel, in a way, I feel real irresponsible that I'm pregnant again, because of that. Sometimes, sometimes I feel like well, I am being too pessimistic. I still feel a lot of joy in my life. I have two children and there are a lot things that happen, but just the whole future of the planet I think is at stake and people are not that upset. They are not shook up enough about it. And that bothers me.

INT: Yeah, I feel the same way. There is nothing you can do but you feel like there is something you should do. It is just really frustrating.

NAR: There are things that you can do, but it is hard to do those kinds of things and not feel like a martyr. Like I stopped buying paper napkins. Now I use cloth napkins all the time. I don't, I want to cut down on paper products. Or I don't use disposable diapers or. Try to conserve them. Try not to use the air conditioner quite as much and try not to use the oven and it goes on and on. And you really can have some effect if you try real hard. But, you look around you and you think why am I the only one? Or am I going to make that much difference? People, too many people think that way so that. Too many people think well one person is not going to make a difference. That's the problem. I

think the best thing you can do is try to teach our children to be as self sufficient as possible, and teach them good conservation.

INT: How did you feel about Met Ed?

NAR: Bad, bad feelings about Met Ed. I still feel bad. I still feel that they are not at all concerned about the health and safety of the community.

INT: You feel more that they are out for themselves, or?

NAR: Oh, I am sure of it. From listening to the hearings that the Keminy Commission had? Listening to them talking to the Met Ed officials, I was just amazed that they did come off as they are so incompetent and I think to myself how? Aren't they embarrassed to come across that way? Doesn't somebody know what's going on? It's just like a cover. Well, we are incompetent so we can't take responsibility for what happened. I have a lot of contempt for them.

INT: I do too. And the more I hear.

NAR: The parent company is Jersey, isn't it?

INT: Is it really?

NAR: Jersey Power and Light? Well, I don't know if it is the parent company, but it. The Jersey Power and Light and Met Ed, what is the other one. There are three companies that are connected in some way.

INT: That makes sense because my mother said that their electric rate went up right after the incident?

NAR: Right, right.

INT: She was all mad about that. "We're paying for you."

NAR: There is a plant not far from Jackson, I think in New Jersey.

INT: There is several of them out there.

NAR: Yeah, I know. I know. I remember looking at a map in Time Magazine of all the different nuclear plants. You know, we just have to live with these things.

INT: I think if you go on either of the coasts you are always going to be within 50 miles of one of the plants. That's what somebody said anyway.

INT: How did you feel about the government officials? The way they handled the incident?

NAR: I'm sort of on the fence about that. I think that Gov. Thornburg should have overreacted but I realize that he probably politically shouldn't have. You know, it's hard for me to. I really don't know what I think. I don't think that he handled it terribly. I don't put a whole lot of trust in government officials so I feel that people have to make their own decisions when it comes to deciding whether or not to leave the area.

INT: Do you feel you were told enough information about the incident?

NAR: No. And I don't feel that the government officials were either. I don't hold them at bay for that. I don't think that they can be responsible for that. I think that Met Ed is grossly at fault there. For misleading the public. The NRC was pretty shaky, too. Denton came across as a big hero, I think. He really seemed to be the most articulate of all the people who were trying to get information across. And he didn't seem to be afraid to paint a bad picture at times. So I listened to Denton. I think I did. I don't know if I did because I felt he was giving such accurate information or if I just really needed to be able to depend on some one person who seemed to be qualified to give out that kind of information. That's why I depended on him. But see I really don't know that much about nuclear power or the workings of a plant to be able to really access the situation.

INT: That's why you are just dependant on the people who do.

NAR: Yeah, and I don't feel that we can be.

INT: Did you feel that they were in control of the situation over there? That they knew what they were doing?

NAR: I think they knew what was happening, yeah. I think they knew what was happening. I don't think that the. There was. When we were in Virginia and listened to reports on, we listened to National Public Radio. Fortunately we were able to get it an NPR station and we were able to listen to the news on all things considered. And, I felt the situation was real serious and could have gone either way. When we were down there, at one point or another. It was a big release when that gas bubble seemed to be contained. When I heard Denton's voice come across the radio and talk about that. Then I felt they were real lucky. But I really didn't think anybody was in control.

INT: So it was more pure luck than?

NAR: Oh yeah.

INT: Than skill?

NAR: I think so. It was interesting. We went to see the movie the China Syndrome about a month ago. We had planned to see it at the time of the accident, but then about a week before the accident happened we were going to go see it, then all these things started happening and then the accident. We just weren't around and couldn't go. But



seeing it later was just real freaky and spooky. Because there were so many similarities it seemed that. It was a strange coincidence. That movie. I was. I was really glad that we saw it and I think everybody should see it. Too bad it wasn't made five years ago. Well, it probably wouldn't have had the same impact if it did have any at all.

INT: I think its strength lies in that it did happen. That people can say, I know before hand, when I saw it about a week before the incident, I remember being worried and my father saying oh, you know nothing like that could ever happen.

NAR: Right.

INT: And that he had heard people complaining that people were going to get all upset about this, that something like that was impossible.

NAR: I remember reading things like that. You know, reactions of people who were involved in nuclear power and in NRC, saying those types of things. But when I saw that movie I thought gee, that's real strange. I'm surprised that I haven't heard more talk of sabotage. The coincidences are just so... strong. Just so, it's just, was real strange I thought.

INT: Did you think of any other movies other than that one?

NAR: No, I kind of flashed on a book, on Orwell's book, 1984. It's, there are not a whole lot of similarities. There is just the whole aura of devastation. The whole futility of what's happening to the world. You know, what's happening to the planet. It's, I have become real pessimistic I think as a result of this. Maybe that is a result of this, maybe as a result of a lack of concern about it, or maybe I am just not talking to the right people. I don't know.

INT: I think you have caught the general trend of things. From what I have seen during the incident and right after people were really upset. They were really anti-nuclear power and they thought it was horrible. But now, now when you talk to people they have rationalized it. Well nothing really did happen so they must have had it under control. You don't need to worry about it then.

NAR: No, I don't feel that way. I just feel that we were real lucky and they were real lucky. And then still, the damaged rods are still there and they still have all that contaminated water to get rid of. You know, the thing is not over.

INT: Just like where they are dumping it now? Did you think about God at all during the incident?

NAR: Not more than usual. Yes, I did. I do think about God a lot. I think that there is a much rosier place than here. I think that fortunately we are not doomed to an eternity of this life. So in a way, it is reassuring to me, and I suppose the little tastes of joy that I get are connected to that feeling. You know what I mean?

INT: Did you think that God might be involved at all in this?

NAR: No, I don't think of God in those terms, I guess. You mean as far as we were lucky that God was watching over us or that God pulled some strings to make sure we didn't have a meltdown?

INT: Yeah, he could have been watching over us or he could have been causing it or?

NAR: No, no. I didn't. I really feel that man has created this and that man was able, that men were able to correct the situation as best they could and that they were lucky. I mean maybe God was involved to some extent but I don't. I can't really. You know, it is just too much of an unknown for me to say, well you know, God saved us. So you don't picture something like this as...? I don't think because I said well thank God I'm not pregnant when it happened, that I'm pregnant now because of that. I don't think that I'm being tested or anything like that. I guess that's just not part of my theology.

INT: Did you attend a church service during the incident?

NAR: No. In fact, I had obligations at church because I teach Sunday school, or did, you know we don't have Sunday school now, and I felt kind of torn about that. I called them up and said, you know because of what's happening. I think called Wes, who's the pastor at the church, on Friday, and said I probably won't be around this weekend and I might be gone longer than this weekend. The fact that he was in his office upset me a little bit. I thought, you know why is he around, why isn't he gone with his family? And then I flushed, you know he probably thinks I'm over-reacting, or maybe I shouldn't be running out on this obligation. And then I thought that's silly, he's someone who's needed, and he probably knows that he's needed at a time like this, he's probably where he should be and I'm not going to worry about what he's doing and my obligations or commitments at this time because I just feel real strongly that we have to leave.

INT: Did you feel any pressure from other people that you were running out on it? I know you said a lot of your friends...?

NAR: No I didn't, because most of my friends left. You see most of my friends are pregnant, so you know, I can understand that they really couldn't over-react. But ahh, some people didn't leave and I didn't get any messages from them that...well I did get messages that over-reacted, and I don't know where from, I think from people in stores and places like that, that I'd talk to casually. But it was only. It was all from people up here, and that one fellow that we met in Washington. The German fellow.

INT: Then he was really even out of it?

NAR: Yeah.

INT: The immediate?

NAR: He wasn't that involved in it.

INT: Did you know that mayors and things like that were getting calls from Germany and other countries asking if Middletown was still there?

NAR: Wow, no.

INT: That they had gotten reports that Middletown and sometimes even Pennsylvania had been blown off the map?

NAR: Wow, isn't that amazing? In this age of modern communication things like that can still happen.

INT: It still happened. Yeah, they'd say they picked up the phone and there would be this foreign accented voice going, "Hello, hello? Are you still there?"

NAR: Wow. I'm really surprised. So he was sort of unique I guess in that, a little way?

INT: Yeah, we've had some foreign countries contact our project. They heard about us through the grapevine.

NAR: Well, I think now. You might have heard about this. There is a town called Carlisle, England that is building a nuclear plant or is somehow?

INT: Somehow involved. One is going up near it or something?

NAR: Aren't they sending some people over here to do?

INT: They have contacted the College.

NAR: Yeah?

INT: And they have contacted our project. I don't know. I just know that they contacted. I don't know what went on after that.

NAR: That's kind of, there is sort of a sister ship there. You know, it is a community sister ship that's nice.

INT: It is sort of interesting. Really nice that they know we even exist?

NAR: I feel, I really have this nostalgic feeling for that old sense of community that I think people in our own generation don't experience a whole lot anymore. It is something that Steve and I were pleased to be part of when we moved to this town. Because we feel it here more than any place else that we have ever lived. You know, that he can walk into a store downtown and someone will know who he is. So I kind of think

that this incident, I kind of thought that this would bond the community a little bit more. You know, how in a crisis people stick together. And I think that I am a little disappointed that there isn't more. That I don't feel that more. That there isn't a lot of press about community groups that are doing things to protest nuclear power. Maybe just, I don't know. I just haven't gotten a lot of information on it. I'm disappointed. I guess people think that we are too far away, that we really aren't affected. You know, being twenty-two miles away.

INT: Had you known that there was a nuclear power plant there before? Before this went on?

NAR: Yes, yes Steve has a friend who worked, who made deliveries to the plant. Who used to deliver with his truck. Never had good things to say. You know, had kind of weird things to say about the. Like safety measures and how easy it is to get in and off the island.

INT: I'm surprised there wasn't more on sabotage, if that's the case? I don't think it was, but?

NAR: Oh, I don't either, no. I don't even entertain the thought. I'm just surprised that people don't because of the China Syndrome thing.

INT: I saw one big, a full page ad in the Patriot that someone had a group and they thought it was sabotage?

NAR: Yes. I saw that. You know where I saw that? In the New York Times.

INT: The Times?

NAR: Was that in the Times? I think so. Maybe it was in the Patriot, I don't know.

INT: Did you have any ideas about how it would be best to behave in this situation? You thought you couldn't over-react, but were there any other things that entered into it? Any like ethical or moral?

NAR: I felt a strong need to contact everyone I could think of to find out if they needed. If they wanted to leave and if they needed a place to go. And I did, and it was in the same vein I was trying not to use as much as possible because I knew that a lot of people were on the phone and the lines were getting jammed up. I remember thinking, well who should I contact? I wonder if so and so has contacted her and him? And between my mother and myself, we pretty much covered the whole spectrum of people in this area who we thought should be contacted. And no one went down with us, just our family to Virginia. Everyone had plans to go in different directions.

INT: Did you think of any past experiences or past events when this happened? Say in your own personal life, maybe another crisis that you have been through?

NAR: No, no I have never experienced anything close to this feeling or this situation.

INT: Did you think of anything in history, historical events?

NAR: Yeah, I thought of Hiroshima. I did, yeah. I thought of Hiroshima. I thought of it in terms, I wondered how people feel now who have survived that and what the effects of radiation are on families and generations. And I felt real ignorant. I realized how little I know about the effects of radiation and contamination. And also, how nuclear power is processed. I don't feel that we have that much in common with the survivors of Hiroshima and I. I really don't agree at all with the mayor's idea of declaring of a Hiroshima Day. Did you read about that?

INT: I haven't heard about that.

NAR: Oh, yeah. I guess it has something to do with being sympathetic with Hiroshima in light of what happened at Three Mile Island. Which I think. I think you cannot compare that situation at all. People in Hiroshima had no control over what happened to them, and we I can't really say that we have control over what happened to us at Three Mile Island, but we certainly could have been more in control of the situation if we were, if communities would take, had taken more interest in what the dangers were. I think, I don't think that (end of side I-interruption)

INT: Might have an explosion like Hiroshima?

NAR: No, I didn't think it would work that way. I thought it would be.

INT: As more in terms of results?

NAR: Yeah, I thought it would be like an odorless, colorless kind of invasion. That it wouldn't be something that we would see or hear or taste right away. It would just. We would just start falling over if it was going to happen.

INT: Are you afraid that you may have effects from it now, in yourself?

NAR: Yeah, I worry about it. I think that. Cancer rates go up and the estimates that they have been giving us are real moderate. Just one death is expected or something like that in twenty years. A certain radius of, I don't know what it is anymore. But, you know, I don't believe that. I hope I can believe it but I don't. It would be nice to be able to believe it. I worry about the kids. I don't know. Two babies have been born, close friends of mine and both babies are. No, three of them have been born, since then. One is a month, and one is three weeks and the other one is a week old. And so far we haven't seen any ill effects of the accident. Thank heavens. But, this pregnancy is. Well, it hasn't been easy. I have been feeling good this pregnancy, but I worry about it. I worry about what will happen when the baby is born. If there will be any problems with the baby. If the baby will be more susceptible to diseases or will be more susceptible to cancer, or will be deformed, or you know. I really don't know what the effects could be

but. It is not something I want to dwell on. Ethically I couldn't consider abortion, sometimes I wish I could have at the time I found out I was pregnant, but I know I couldn't have. Steve and I thought about thinking about it, but we couldn't so. Time will tell what happens. You know, I am probably really over-reacting, but...

INT: You don't know.

NAR: ...but it's the way I feel, so. Right, I don't know. It is just one of those unknown things. It is always a chance that you take when you are having a baby, but not in this situation. It seems to be a bit more of a risk to me.

INT: You don't need any additional things to think about.

NAR: Right.

INT: Did you hear any jokes about the incident?

NAR: No, not really. We went to New York after it. We came back from being in Virginia and we had to go to New York. We'd see friends and they would say things like, "Well, you are not glowing." Nothing really hilarious. Just sort of the expected kind of humor.

INT: Did you hear that from people around here at all?

NAR: No, no, not at all. No.

INT: That is interesting that you would catch it around up there and not?

NAR: Yeah. No, like most of our friends like I said are pregnant and I think they just. They wouldn't deal with it that way. Just wouldn't. I thought the T-shirts were pretty funny. "I survived TMI...I think." That was really funny, you know to hear about that was. You know I thought well they have.

INT: Did you get a t-shirt?

NAR: No, I didn't. I didn't. Because I don't know if I survived TMI.

INT: Oh, no! Well that is why you say "I think"?

NAR: I think that's right.

INT: Ok, is there anything else you want to add?

NAR: No.